

From: Akira Negi
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 11:54pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs:

With respect to the current Microsoft anti-trust case, I urge you to NOT settle for anything less than a split up of the company. There are a number of incidents that lead me to believe this, but the most of recent such event was when Windows 95 based computer had a problem when adding a hardware. Specifically, Windows 95 OS would crash every time it tried to find a new driver for the new hardware. After some investigation, I concluded that the only chance was for me to reinstall the Windows software. I then found out that it was not possible to do that without going back to the DOS prompt, because Internet Explorer 4.0 was loaded on the computer. I tried to remove it, but Windows refused to let me do so.

This is a clear example of Microsoft forcing its OS and its internet browser both onto the users at the same time. Seeing that it was not possible to fix a problem I had at hand without going back to the DOS prompt (which defeats the whole purpose of using Windows in the first place), it appears to me that Microsoft would benefit from stopping its practice of using its market share in the OS to force applications onto the users--at least the problems would be solvable without taking a brute approach. Moreover, if forced to consider products more independently, perhaps Microsoft would consider building more stable OS and more stable internet browsers, which would have eliminated my problem to begin with.

It is my opinion that if Microsoft were two (or more) separate corporations, it would be forced to create their programs in a more modular way with clear interfaces, which would in turn open the doors for other software companies to create a similar, competitive products. I'm sure I'm not the only person who have experienced problems with softwares crashing and hanging up the OS. No other industry would accept a product that would have to be rebooted every day or so to keep everything operating normally. Having a clear interface between the OS and applications would make it easier to build a more stable product.

For the exact reasons stated above, I do not deem a small penalty to be a sufficient outcome in this anti-trust case. Microsoft's anti-competitive practices must be stopped now, or we risk losing many of its great competitors, including Netscape and Correll (maker of Word Perfect). Our society cannot afford such a loss. We need those competitors to keep producing their respective products in order to have improvements and advancements in softwares. I would find any result

that does not put an end to Microsoft's current business practices utterly unacceptable.

Thank you for your time, and good luck in the proceedings.

Sincerely,

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